

NCC Minutes 11/19/07

Open meeting: 7:04 p.m.

Present: A. Watts, R. LaBranche, D. Mason, R. Konisky, L. Hill, S. Shope,
Sel. W. Moore. Guests: T. Walker of R.P.C., resident W. Davis

1) Ongoing Administrative Business:

- a) Treasurer's report: Motion to accept by A. Watts, seconded by S. Shope, all in favor YES.
- b) Minutes 10/15/07 and addendum written by A. Watts for special meeting 11/05/07: Motion to accept by A. Watts, seconded by D. Mason, all in favor YES.

2) Prime Wetlands discussion:

- S. Shope attended the Planning Board meeting: B. Meserve and M. Todd felt the affected landowners should somehow be compensated but M. Price disagreed. They are also unclear as to why the planning board is involved and why the designation is necessary when wetlands are already protected. T. Walker says that D.E.S. regulations require it go through the planning board. M. West will meet with them 11/26/07 to answer their questions.
- W. Moore requested a clearer explanation of what prime wetlands designation means. A. Watts responded that any impacts affecting prime wetlands would be considered major and therefore require greater scrutiny. R. Konisky asked how it is determined which abutters will have an impact but this is determined by the set local buffers. Currently the town buffers are: hydric A soils=100 ft., hydric B 50 ft.. S. Shope feels that generally only large projects will be affected.
- A. Watts asked D. Wiggin as to who would be responsible for determining which projects would have an impact and she replied this would be up to the planning board, conservation commission and possibly hired consultants. W. Moore pointed out that the building inspector needs to be involved also.
- How do we educate the public? T. Walker and A. Watts feel we need to stress the values of water quality and flood control. S. Shope feels the 3 Tier approach will confuse people. T. Walker agrees that we should just combine 1 and 2, which we're trying to designate and get rid of the numbers. She says that Sandy from D.E.S. has a very good powerpoint presentation and that maybe we could do a combined workshop for the 6 towns trying to designate. She also suggests allowing people to submit questions via e-mail which she would help address. W. Moore states that we need to be very concise with our definitions and completely transparent. Landowners will be concerned about potential costs and we need to focus on the benefits to the community.

-W. Davis, a Newfields landowner expressed several concerns- Why is this necessary?, What will the costs be?, How long will the process take? S. Shope replied it will mean extra scrutiny if prime wetlands are affected. A. Watts states that specifically that means a D.E.S. public hearing. T. Walker says the prime wetland designation will make D.E.S. more conscientious reviewing the project but that their turn-around time has greatly improved from about 4 months down to 6 weeks. W. Davis also asked for specific examples as to what has happened with some projects. A. Watts replied that she had talked to D. Wiggin who did state that there have been no cases of property being devalued or owners bringing suit over the issue. T. Walker reiterated that the rules for the entire state are probably going to become more restrictive. R. Konisky points out that the state oversight will help towns that don't have the expertise.

3) Silverstein property- Still no answer from their lawyer as what date would be amenable to the owners. S. Shope will try to speak to F. Lane.

4) Other Business:

- T. Walker suggests we start trying to educate landowners about septic systems, etc. There is a folder that can be given to new residents and we should consider having a workshop.

- NH Trails Bureau has a grant program for up to \$30,000. It is a matching program but can be done with money or time.

5) Next meeting 12/17/07. Also PW workshop with planning board and M. West on 11/26/07..

Adjourn 8:45 p.m.

NCC member L. Hill 11/19/07